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Remarks/Arguments

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seto et al and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In reply thereto, applicant respectfully argues as follows.

Object of the Invention:

JP 2002-8753 discloses an electrical connector assembly for connecting a pair of circuit boards. Since the electrical connectors are of the low profile and the circuit boards are relatively large, it is difficult to fit the plug into the socket. Thus, it is an object of the invention to provide a low profile electrical connector for facilitating the introduction of a mating connector to the plugging position (Specification, page 3, lines 4-7).

First Composition of the Invention:

As clearly defined in claims 1-3 and 6, applicant's invention comprises a peripheral wall having an upper face including a first surface in an outside area and a second surface that is positioned in an inside area and lower than the first surface and higher than the terminals and a slant surface between the first and second surfaces, thus allowing the mating connector to slide on the second surface within the first surface, thereby making it easier to position the mating connector relative to the electrical connector prior to applying a final plugging force.

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With respect to the prior art, Seto et al. disclose a board to board electrical connector assembly comprising a pair of identical first and second connectors 10 each including female and male terminals 18 and 20.

However, Seto et al. neither disclose nor suggest any second surface (13B) that is provided in the inside area of an upper face of peripheral wall (13). The examiner's attachment shows, as second surface, an indented portion of the first surface of peripheral wall (P). In fact, the "second surface" in the attachment is a portion of the first surface that is provided in the outside area of a top surface of peripheral wall. Thus, there is no second surface in Seto et al. on which a mating connector can slide laterally into the receiving space.

According to the invention, when the mating connector (30) is moved in the lateral or longitudinal direction with the lower face (31A) sliding on the upper face of the peripheral wall (13), the housing (31) enters a space between the inside areas (13B) without difficulty. When the lower face (31A) slides on the second surface (13B), the connector (30) is guided into the receiving space (16). See Specification, page 9, lines 14-32.

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention as recited in claims 1-3 and 6 is patentable over Seto et al.

Second Composition of the Invention:

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The Action states, "which further comprises a plugging protrusion (see figs 1-3) in said one engaging means..."

As clearly claimed in claims 4-5 and 7, applicant's invention comprises a plugging protrusion provided in the receiving space and having an upper face that includes a first surface positioned higher than the upper face of the peripheral wall, a second surface provided in a periphery of the first surface and being substantially flush with the upper face of the peripheral wall and higher than the terminals, and a slant surface between the first and second surface.

Seto et al. disclose a housing 14 having a receiving space between peripheral walls in which terminals 18 and 20 are held.

However, Seto et al. neither disclose nor suggest any plugging protrusion provided in the receiving space that is surrounded by the peripheral wall. In fact, Seto et al. do not teach any plugging protrusion provided in the receiving space but only peripheral walls. The item 26, which is only an item provided in the receiving space, appears to be plugging protrusion but, in fact, it is the contact post of a male terminal 20. See Fig. 2.

Second, Seto et al. neither disclose nor suggest any plugging protrusion having an upper face including a first surface that is higher than the upper face of the peripheral wall.

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Since there is no plugging protrusion, there are none of the first surface (14A), second surface (14B), and slant surface (14C) of the plugging protrusion.

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention as recited in claims 4-5 and 7 is patentable over Seto et al.

Claims 8-11 are objected to.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 1-11 allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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